

tern as the migrations observed in mainland Britain. Two maxima were obvious, in late September and in late October (corresponding exactly to mainland peaks), and there was a sprinkling of records at other times. The species involved, *Agrius convolvuli* most commonly, also agree with the general pattern, but perhaps surprisingly are not characteristically eastern in origin. In fact most moths arrived during periods of south or south-westerly winds in contrast to the hover-fly arrivals of June. It seems likely that they originated either from the low countries, France or from Britain itself. It will be most interesting to see what reaches the oil platforms if there is a period of easterly migration late in the season such as sometimes occurs.

I am most grateful to the many people who collected specimens for me, and especially to K. Watt for identifying the Syrphidae. A brief summary of the data is included below and detailed Syrphidae records are available from me if needed. Records were received from the following platforms and barges: Forties Charlie; Forties Delta; Fulmar; Auk; Sedco 700 and Sedneth 701. The barges were located in the general area of the platforms, which are roughly midway between Britain and Norway and are east of Aberdeen.

Species Recorded and Dates of Records

Chrysopa carnea Stephens, July, Aug.

Syrphus ribesii (Linn.), July, Aug. *S. torvus* Osten-Sacken, June, July, Aug. *S. vitripennis* Meigen, June, July. *Metasyrphus corollae* (Fab.), June, Aug. *Scaeva pyrastris* (Linn.), July. *Episyrphus balteatus* (Degeer), June, July, Aug. *Helophilus parallelus* (Harris), June.

Plutella xylostella (Linn.), Aug. *Agonopterix heracliensis* (Linn.), Aug. *Agrius convolvuli* (Linn.), Sept., Oct. *Acherontia atropos* (Linn.), Oct. *Phlogophora meticulosa* (Linn.), Oct. *Autographa gamma* (Linn.), Aug.

References

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 Stubbs, A. and Chandler, P. 1978. *A Dipterist's Handbook*. Amateur Entomologists Society.
 Williams, C. 1958. *Insect Migration*. Collins.
 Young, M. 1981. Insects and oil platforms. *Ent. Rec.*, **93**: 13.

THE STATUS OF THE PINE HAWK: *HYLOICUS PINASTRI* L., IN BEDFORDSHIRE. — 1983 m.v. catches show that *Hyloicus pinastri* is now present and thriving throughout the band of Lower Greensand which cuts diagonally across Bedfordshire. It was found to be the commonest hawkmoth in the Woburn Sands area, occurring regularly in high numbers and with 18 appearing in one evening. — K. F. WEBB, Kingsdown Avenue, Luton, Beds LU2 7BU.